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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CU-04 BIB-01 COME-00 HA-05 MCE-00 /167 W
----------030518 160902Z /17
R 152144Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9593
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE

REFS: (A) PARIS 03875; (B) PARIS 04242; (C) PARIS 02369

BERN PASS TO INDIAN OCEAN DELEGATION

1. FRENCH PERMREP LEPRETTE AND QUAI IO DIRECTOR LECOMPT DISCUSSED FRENCH DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND OTHER HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM ON FEBRUARY 13. WHILE THEIR PRESENTATION DID NOT ADD MUCH TO THE MAJOR POINTS ALREADY MADE IN GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND BRIEFING PROVIDED TO AMEMBASSY PARIS, IT DID UNDERSCORE FRENCH READINESS FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH US ON THEIR INITIATIVE.

2. LECOMPT AGAIN EMPHASIZED FRENCH VIEW THAT GIVEN THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY, ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRIES HAVE RIGHT TO ENHANCED SECURITY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THESE ISSUES. KIN OUTLINING THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED WORLD SATELLITE AGENCY UNDER UN AUSPICES, LECOMPT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF VERIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES. FROM RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY LEONARD, HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR FRENCH HAVE GIVEN LITTLE

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CONSIDERATION TO THE COSTS, ESPECIALLY MANPOWER, INVOLVED IN ANY SERIOUS RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE OPERATION. THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING INFORMATION FROM US ON SUCH COSTS AND WE BELIE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE GOF WITH SHORT, UNCLASSIFIED PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT. (NOTE: NASA ADMINISTRATOR FROSCH, IO ASST SECRETARY MAYNES AND LOENARD DISCUSSED THIS IDEA FURTHER ON FEBRUARY 14. FROSCH AGREED TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING FRNEHC WITH SHORT PAPER).

3. LECOMPT ALSO REVIEWED THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW INTER-NATIONAL NEGOTIATING BODY TO REPLACE THE CCD. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, BELIEVE THAT A NEW NEGOTIATING BODY SHOULD BE LINKED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE A GEOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION ALONG STANDARD UN LINES. THEIR PROPOSAL THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP BE DETERMINED BY THE REGIONAL GROUPS AND INCLUDE BOTH PERMANENT AND ROTATING MEMBERS WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY SEVERAL OF THOSE PRESENT, LED BY AMB. GARCIA ROBLES. LECOMPT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN FRENCH VIEW, THIS NEW BODY WOULD HAVE TO WORK BY CONSENSUS. THE NIGERIAN SUPPORTED GARCIA ROBLES' CONTENTION THAT NO OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, BEYOND THESE PRESENTLY ON THE CCD, WERE REALLY INTERESTED OR HAVE THE MANPOWER TO STAFF SUCH A BODY.

4. LECOMPT AND LEPRETTE INDICATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT
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THE GOF WAS FLEXIBLE AND OPEN-MINDED AND THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE INTENDED TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. WE THEREFORE AGREE WITH AMB HARTMAN'S RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL A) THAT A VISIT BY ACDA CIRECTOR WARNEK OR ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE DISARMAMENT FILED TO MEET WITH TAITTINGER, LECOMP, ET.AL.AT AN EARLY DATE WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE. THESE MACHINERY ISSUES ARE LOOMING AHEAD AS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE TOPICS TO BE RAISED AT THE SPECIAL SESSION. THIS IS CERTAINLY THE RIFHT MOMENT TO HAVE A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE FRENCH WHILE THEIR INITIATIVES ARE STILL IN THEIR FORMATIVE STAGES.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0420
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780250/aaaabqft.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 3875, 78 PARIS 4242, 78 PARIS 2369
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3582068
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE
TAGS: PARM, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23cff2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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